

## Connection to Session 7

Since believers have been granted such a great salvation, we should see the power of that great salvation in their daily walk.

## Introduction/Opening

One of the more common scenes on playgrounds is a game of chase. Often the boys are chasing the girls, or sometimes it's the other way around. Eventually some adult might say, "What are you going to do when you catch them?" The children usually don't have an answer, not knowing if catching the person is a good or bad thing.

In Ephesians 4 we are told that Jesus has taken "captives captive" (v. 8). And we are the captives! But this, of course, is a good thing. There is no greater freedom than to be a slave of Christ. The Christian life, as described in chapters 4 through 6 of Ephesians, is what happens after Jesus catches us. It's a whole new way of life.

## Outline

1. Honoring the Calling (Eph. 4:1)
  - a) The calling of all Christians (Rom. 1:6; Rom. 8:28; 1 Cor. 1:2,9). This is different from our individual callings based on our spiritual gifts or vocation.
  - b) The responsibility of all Christians. Only Jesus makes us worthy (remember Eph. 2:8-10), but we are commanded, and thus responsible, to act in a manner consistent with such an honorable calling.  
The word "live" in verse 1 is sometimes translated "walk." It is used seven times in Ephesians (2:2,10; 4:1,17; 5:2,8,15). It doesn't mean live as in the opposite of die, but live in the sense of carrying out our daily lives, our Christian walk.
2. Maintaining the Unity (Eph. 4:2-6)
  - a) The obedience always expected (vv. 2-3)
  - b) The oneness already established (vv. 4-6)
3. Celebrating the Captivity (Eph. 4:7-10)
  - a) Receiving His gifts (v. 7)
  - b) Realizing our "captivity" (v. 8)  
Adapted from Psalm 68:18: Being under Christ's lordship means that we belong to Him (1 Cor. 6:19b-20); we are His servants or slaves (Rom. 6:20,22). When He took us captive, He set us free from every other form of captivity (Rom. 6:17-18).
  - c) Recognizing His supremacy (vv. 9-10)

## Conclusion

Christians have a heavenly calling (Phil. 3:14; Heb. 3:1), but this calling is meant to shape the way we live our lives on a daily basis. We first must accept His calling *on* our lives, and then we honor that calling *with* our lives. We honor that calling by submitting to His lordship in every area of our lives. We also honor it by “making every effort to keep the unity” (v. 3) that is already a reality established by God for His people. There is—whether we believe it or not, accept it or not, take part in it or not—one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God. Is He your God, your Lord? Do you have this Spirit, this hope? You can; it is a gift of His grace.

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